

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to change the occurrences of "and/or" in lines 17 and 29 thereof to --and--. The occurrence of "a" in line 1 of claim 18 has been changed to --an external--. Based on these amendments, withdrawal of the objection to claims 12 and 18 (and the claims that depend therefrom) is respectfully requested.


The recitation of "computer-readable storage medium" in claim 22 has been changed to --recording medium--. Basis for this language can be found in original claim 23, for example. Based on the Examiner's suggestion, the specification has been amended to include language corresponding to that of original claims 22 and 23.

The subject patent application is now believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Shea  
Reg. No. 34,725

MJS:mjs  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100